

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-17 (cancelled).

18 (currently amended). A method for treating at least one stress-related symptom maintaining or lowering endogenous cortisol levels in a patient following a stressful event, wherein said method comprises administering to the patient, prior to the stressful event, an effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, wherein the patient is then subsequently subjected to the stressful event which, in the absence of said administration of cysteamine, or salt thereof, would increase cortisol levels in the patient, and wherein, subsequent to the stressful event, the cortisol levels in the patient are lower than they would have been in the absence of the administration of cysteamine, or salt thereof, wherein the stressful event is selected from work stress, school stress, sports stress, divorce, bereavement, unemployment, moving from a house, and alcohol use, and wherein the stress-related symptom is selected from the group consisting of: uncontrollable shaking; hyperventilation; vomiting; triggering of an asthma attack; periods of irritability or anger; apathy; depression; constant anxiety; irrational behavior; loss of appetite; comfort eating; lack of concentration; lack of sex-drive; increased smoking, drinking, or recreational drug-taking; excessive tiredness; skin problems; aches and pains resulting from tense muscles; increased pain from arthritis; heart palpitations; irregular menstruation cycles; constipation; diarrhea; dizziness; fainting spells; nail biting; frequent crying; sensation of pins and needles; increased tendency to perspire; and difficulty sleeping.

19 (cancelled).

20 (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein said cysteamine salt is cysteamine hydrochloride.

21 (previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein said cysteamine, or cysteamine salt, is taken orally, parenterally, intravenously, intramuscularly, transdermally, via buccal route, subcutaneously, or via suppository.

22 (previously presented). The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of concurrently administering a therapeutic agent with cysteamine, or salt thereof, wherein the therapeutic agent is a therapy used to treat stress.

23 (original). The method of claim 22, wherein the therapy is selected from the group consisting of counseling; psychotherapy; exercise; meditation; and massage therapy.

24 (previously presented). The method of claim 18, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 0.1 to 3,000 mg/kg of body weight or an equivalent molar quantity.

25 (previously presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 1 mg/kg of body weight to 30 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine, or salt thereof, or an equivalent molar quantity.

26 (previously presented). The method of claim 24, wherein the effective amount of cysteamine, or salt thereof, administered to the patient is between about 4 mg/kg of body weight to 18 mg/kg of body weight of cysteamine hydrochloride, or an equivalent molar quantity thereof.

27 (canceled).